



## CLIA UK river cruise event opens up

For the first time, Australian agents are invited to this year's Europe River Cruise Extravaganza.

THE global union between cruise organisations has created a new opportunity for Australian and New Zealand travel agents to attend an annual conference hosted by CLIA UK in Germany.

Cruise Lines International Association Australasia was this week allocated limited spaces for agent members to attend the two-day Europe River Cruise Extravaganza, to be held in Cologne on 17-18 Nov.

The event includes one night onboard a river vessel, conference sessions, a trade show and inspections of other ships.

"European river cruising has grown strongly in recent years so this is a great opportunity for agents to learn more about the market, experience a number of different vessels firsthand and network with operators and agents from the UK," said CLIA Australasia general manager Brett Jardine.

He said the invitation demonstrated the benefits of the collaboration now occurring between cruise bodies around the world, after uniting under the CLIA umbrella last Dec.

"Agents should be making the most of any opportunity to boost their understanding of the market and build their cruise business," Jardine added.

For more info about attending the conference, email Amanda [info@cruising.org.au](mailto:info@cruising.org.au).

## Cruise crimes now reported

ROYAL Caribbean International, Norwegian Cruise Line and Carnival Corporation have started posting statistics on its US websites about the number of crimes reported on ships.

Whilst the figures are hardly alarming, the reporting of this information comes in advance of a new law being introduced in the United States by West Virginia Democrat Senator John D Rockefeller IV.

Senator Rockefeller said his bill called for the introduction of a toll-free phone line for any complaints to be reported, among other things.



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## Pacific Pearl moved to OPT

EARLIER this week, passengers boarded *Pacific Pearl* at Sydney's Overseas Passenger Terminal instead of its allocated berth at White Bay due to "expected strong winds".

A P&O spokesperson told **CW** that White Bay "is no different from Barangaroo" where operations were sometimes disrupted by prevailing wind conditions.

Sydney Ports spokesman Bob de la Lande said White Bay was equipped with all necessary storm moorings and "can and has already" safely berthed cruise ships in high winds.

"On this occasion, the ship's captain requested to berth at the OPT and, as it was available, Sydney Ports was happy to comply."

## Loaded with cruise news

Today's **CW** features three news pages and a page of **cruise jobs** from **AA Appointments**.

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## Oceania Cruises to refurbish fleet

*Regatta*, *Nautica* and *Insignia* will be upgraded next year to match up to the standards of *Marina* and *Riviera*.

THE three 684-pax ships, scheduled for a six-week drydock from 24 Apr next year, are set to receive a \$50 million upgrade as part of the largest refurbishment program in the company's history.

*Insignia*, which returns to the fleet in 2014 after a two-year charter, *Regatta* and *Nautica* are the line's oldest R-Class ships.

Planned improvements include redecorating the cabins and public rooms in the colours and décor found on the newer *Marina* and *Riviera*, and the addition of the popular Baristas café, serving complimentary speciality coffees, croissants, biscotti and finger sandwiches.

The Terrace Café will be completely updated with a new grill for steak and lobster dinners, the Grand Dining Room and Toscana restaurant will be expanded with more tables for two, the ships' show lounges will be completely refurbished and Martinis will be outfitted with new furniture.

Elsewhere, the Owner's and Vista suites will receive new bathrooms including oversized showers and new vanities, and original artwork has been commissioned to be placed inside all

of the staterooms.

The ships' only indoor smoking area, located in the Horizons observation lounge, will also be completely enclosed with glass and a state-of-the-art air filtration system.

Lastly, the ships' show lounges are due for a revamp, and the Canyon Ranch SpaClub will receive new steam rooms and changing rooms.

"This refurbishment program is an incredible undertaking but we are excited by the opportunity to bring some of the best features of our O-Class ships to *Regatta*, *Insignia* and *Nautica*," said Kunal Kamrani, president of Oceania Cruises.

"This will ensure a consistent experience across the fleet."

The renovated *Insignia* will return for regular sailings on 8 May 2014, starting in Barcelona with a seven-day Jewels of Europe cruise - the first cruise after a two-year charter.

*Nautica* will resume in Rome on 6 May and *Regatta* on 7 Jun in Vancouver and Alaska.

### RCI's Quantum taking shape

PHYSICAL construction has now commenced on Royal Caribbean International's newest ship, with the keel-laying ceremony for *Quantum of the Seas* taking place late last week at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Germany.

The revolutionary 4,180 passenger vessel is due for completion towards the end of next year, with sister-ship *Anthem of the Seas* following suit approximately one year later.

Speaking of *Anthem*, steel cutting has begun for the second of the Quantum-class ships.

CLICK HERE for a video from the ceremony.

MEANWHILE, Royal Caribbean's latest Flagship sale is nearing its conclusion, running three more days until midnight this Sat 10 Aug.

Stateroom discounts, onboard credit and reduced deposits offers are also available.

### Free flights promo extended

POPULAR passenger take-up of Azamara Club Cruises' free return flights offer has seen the offer extended to a 31 Aug expiry.

Bookings of an Oceanview Stateroom of higher on selected Asian voyages departing in 2013 and 2014 are eligible for the offer.

For more information and a list of voyages eligible for the offer, CLICK HERE.

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### Cruise News & Views...

## Who is Un-Cruise?

OUR latest Member Line is Seattle-based Un-Cruise Adventures. Unconventional and Uncompromising is how Un-Cruise perceives the delivery of their product.

Why "Un-Cruise" - it's pretty simple really. When you have a niche that is very different to what is traditional, you need to be able to get this message out loud and clear.

"Once you step on board, you'll understand immediately. It's the casual nature. It's nature itself. It's the rare encounter. It's the attentive service, the fellowship, the extraordinary sense of place. It's all these things & so much more.

Built on a reputation of quality and experience, each Un-Cruise Adventure features flexible voyages designed to satisfy your adventurous nature".

Creating an unbeatable balance between exploration and relaxation in inspiring places is what Un-Cruise does best.

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### New AmaPrima christened

**DANCERS**, singers, stilt walkers, musicians and other local performers provided great fanfare as the newest river cruise vessel from APT and partner line AmaWaterways - the *AmaPrima* - was christened in the German town of Vilsofhen.

Serving as the ship's honorary Godmother was Valerie Wilson, founder and CEO of New York City-based Valerie Wilson Travel Inc, with *AmaPrima* - sister vessel to the *AmaCerto* - offering staterooms of up to 350sq-feet in size.

The ceremony included a special blessing of the ship by a local pastor, while the Vilsofhen fire department sprayed water in its honour.

Among the highlights of the 164ft *AmaPrima* are twin balconies, an exclusive feature of APT and AmaWaterways vessels.

### Mrs Arison to name Sunshine

**CARNIVAL** *Sunshine*, which recently returned to service following a US\$100m renovation, will be officially rechristened by Lin Arison, the wife of Carnival Cruise Lines' late founder Ted Arison.

Arison also served as the Godmother to the ship in its former life as *Carnival Destiny* when it first rolled out of the shipyards in 1996.

In addition to playing Godmother to the line's very first vessel *Mardi Gras* in 1972 and the *Carnival Holiday* in 1985, the naming will further enshrine Arison as the only person to have been Godmother to three separate Carnival ships.

"*Carnival Sunshine's* transformation was nothing short of spectacular and we wanted someone as special as Lin, who has a deep connection with Carnival Cruise Lines, to serve as godmother," Carnival president and CEO Gerry Cahill commented.



**MSC** Cruises is continuing its baseball themed cruises during the upcoming year, launching a special Legends of Baseball series of Caribbean sailings on the *MSC Divina* in the 2013-14 year.

The vessel is now operating sailings to the region year-round from its new Miami base.

Former New York Yankees pitcher Stan Bahnsen will serve as host and MC for onboard activities during the cruises, which will feature icons of the game from numerous teams.

Free autograph sessions will be among the activities hosted during the cruises, with a changing lineup of players set to take part.

Other games hosted will include player hosted baseball trivia games, pitching contests and hitting, base running and fielding clinics.



### Brochure Spotlight

**Avalon Waterways** has released a new mini-brochure detailing 12 exotic itineraries around the world.

If you're looking for a luxurious way to discover rivers such as the Yangtze, Mekong, Amazon, Nile and

Mississippi, or explore the waters around the Galápagos Islands, this brochure is a must have. Included is the 11-day Peruvian itinerary, travelling from Lima to the Inca Empire, and introducing the *Aria*, a contemporary 16-suite ship, offering a 3-night cruise of the Peruvian Amazon, priced at \$6099ppts.

Earlybird discounts of \$300 per couple are obtainable for all available 2014 World Collection cruises booked by Sep 30. Further savings for early payments, additional tour bookings and Journey's Club repeat travellers are also available. More details at [www.avalonwaterways.com.au](http://www.avalonwaterways.com.au).



### Biggest NZ cruise season ever

**CRUISE** passenger arrivals grew 21.6% year-on-year during the 2012-13 season, resulting in a 7.3% economic boost, official statistics released by Cruise New Zealand show.

Total arrivals surpassed 200,000 for the year, which amounted to a NZ\$310 million injection into the national coffers, the figures reveal.

American arrivals grew by 17% & comprised the highest number of passengers entering or departing the country via air after having arrived or departed on a cruise, however Australians still made up the lion's share of overall passengers at 53% of the market.

Over the season, New Zealand welcomed 37 ships & facilitated 763 days in ports nationwide.

### Between a lock & a hard place

**AMAWATERWAYS** vessel *AmaDagio* has been winched out of a lock by a crane after becoming stuck in a regional part of France.

According to *CruiseCritic*, the ship, along with a cargo vessel, became stuck in the lock located between Avignon and Touron, with all passengers disembarked and accommodated in local hotels while the situation was rectified.

### New South Sea Sales Manager

**LAUREN** Mossop has been promoted to the role of sales manager for South Sea Cruises, Blue Lagoon Cruises, Awesome Adventures and Vinaka Fiji Volunteering, starting 20 Aug.

To be based in Fiji, Mossop ascends to the role from her Australia-based position as director of sales for Blue Lagoon Cruises, a position she has held since 2009.

### New ACL Mississippi itinerary

**AMERICAN** Cruise Lines has launched a new 14-night voyage along the Mississippi River which will be sold at a 10-night price.

Scheduled to depart on 26 Oct, the sailing is to be operated by the *Queen of the Mississippi* vessel travelling from the upper parts of the river through to Memphis, Tennessee.

See [www.americancruiselines.com](http://www.americancruiselines.com) for more details on pricing and stateroom availability.

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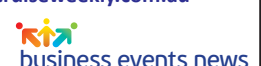
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